

The Cyber Initiative of Today: Preparing to Win the Cyber War

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Abstract:

Intelligence and information security experts agree that the United States is in the midst of an active cyber war, with millions of attacks occurring daily on public and private systems. To better protect the country, the White House in concert with U.S. intelligence agencies, has recently introduced the “Cyber Initiative,” a program that is dedicated to successfully protecting the nation’s information assets.

With few details known about how the Cyber Initiative will be implemented, its potential impact on those responsible for securing U.S. Government agency networks and the extent to which agencies will be involved, former White House cyber security advisor and (ISC)² Cyber Security Strategist, Howard Schmidt, will provide insight and the historical context for evaluating this latest program. Mr. Schmidt will discuss the effectiveness of past White House efforts to defend U.S. networks, how the nature of cyber attacks has since changed and what new approaches are necessary to combat the sophistication of today’s challenges.

Attendees to this session will learn:

- How the current cyber war is more complex than anything we’ve seen before
- How public and private sector organizations can learn from past successes and failures to develop an effective strategy for protecting their resources from malevolent attackers bent on destroying America’s national security.
- Why a professionalized information security workforce is one of the key weapons needed to win a full-blown cyber war.
- What steps are necessary to fully educate and prepare information security personnel to effectively combat a largely unknown and unseen enemy.

Biography:

Howard Schmidt is currently the Security Strategist for (ISC)², the global leader in information security education and certification, commentating on the most pressing information security topics for the organization. A noted speaker and author, Howard Schmidt has had a long and distinguished career in defense, law enforcement and corporate security spanning almost 40 years. He has served as a cyber security advisor to the White House, Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer and Chief Security Strategist for eBay, and Chief Security Officer for Microsoft. He most recently served in the position of Chief Security Strategist for the US CERT Partners Program for the National Cyber Security Division, Department of Homeland Security.